

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KABUL 08473 161016Z

16
ACTION H-03

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DEPT FOR H, NEA, AND S/NM - PASS USIA AND DEA HQS

ISLAMABAD FOR AMB. VANCE; CAIRO FOR CODEL WOLFF

E. O. 11652: NA
TAGS: SNAR, OREP, AF
SUBJECT: CODEL WOLFF - VISIT TO AFGHANISTAN

1. CODEL WOLFF, LED BY LESTER L. WOFF, CHAIRMAN OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON NARCOTICS ABUSE AND CONTROL, AND INCLUDING REPRESENTATIVES JAMES SCHEUER, WILLIAM LEHMAN, WILLIAM RANDALL, AND DEA ADMINISTRATOR PETER BENSINGER VISITED KABUL FROM NOVEMBER 13-16. THE CODEL RECEIVED A CORDIAL WELCOME FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF AFGHANISTAN (GOA), AND HAD AN OPPORTUNITY FOR A THOROUGH REVIEW OF GOA/U.S. MISSION PROGRAMS AND PLANS IN THE NARCOTICS FIELD. CHAIRMAN WOLFF AND HIS CONGRESSIONAL COLLEAGUES ALSO TALKED TO GOA OFFICIALS ABOUT THE BIPARTISAN NATURE OF U.S. FOREIGN POLICY AND THE LIKELIHOOD THAT MAIN DIRECTIONS OF POLICY WOULD CONTINUE UNDER THE NEW ADMINISTRATION.

2. IN ITS TALKS WITH AFGHAN OFFICIALS, THE CODEL STRESSED THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE WORLD NARCOTICS EPIDEMIC AND URGED
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PAGE 02 KABUL 08473 161016Z

CLOSER COOPERATION BETWEEN AFGHANISTAN AND THE UNITED STATES

TO SOLVE THE PRESENT PROBLEM. CHAIRMAN WOLFF POINTED OUT THAT THE CODEL HAD JUST VISITED GENEVA AND HAD BEEN REASSURED BY THE PROGRESS MADE BY UNITED NATIONS FUND FOR DRUG ABUSE CONTROL (UNFDAC) AND THE WORK OF THE ANTI-SMUGGLING UNIT IN AFGHANISTAN. BUT, THE CHAIRMAN EXPRESSED HIS DISMAY TO THE AFGHANS THAT SO FEW OF THE COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD WERE HELPING IN THE ANTI-NARCOTICS CAMPAIGN. HE SAID THAT THE U.S. CONGRESS WOULD BE PUTTING MORE URGENCY INTO ITS INSISTENCE THAT THERE BE BROADER INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATION IN WORLDWIDE NARCOTICS CONTROL ACTIVITIES.

CHAIRMAN WOLFF ALSO MENTIONED THE DTERMINATION IN CONGRESS, BACKED BY LEGISLATION, TO REDUCE AID PROGRAMS IN COUNTRIES WHICH DO NOT MAKE AN EFFORT TO CONTROL NARCOTICS PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENT.

3. IN A LENGTHY, CORDIAL AND CANDID MEETING WITH HEAD OF STATE AND PRIME MINISTER MOHAMMAD DAOUD, CONGRESSMEN WOLFF AND SCHEUER ACCOMPANIED BY BENSINGER, MADE IT CLEAR TO THE PRESIDENT THAT THE U.S. CONGRESS WAS PREPARED TO PLAY AN INCREASED ROLE IN DEVELOPING PROGRAMS TO COMBAT POPPY GROWING -- PARTICULARLY IN THE POVERTY STRICKEN NORTHEASTER PROVINCE OF BADA KHSHAN -- AND THAT THE CONGRESS ALSO WAS WILLING TO CONSIDER PROPOSALS FOR MORE BILATERAL ASSISTANCE TO COMPLEMENT THE PRESENT UNFDAC POLICE PROGRAM.

4. CODEL WOLFF URGED PRESIDENT DAOUD, AND THE OTHER TOP AFGHAN OFFICIALS WITH WHOM THEY MET (INCLUDING THE PRESIDENT'S BROTHER MOHAMMAD NAIM, MINISTER OF INTERIOR ABDUL QADIR, DE FACTO FOREIGN MINISTER WAHEED ABDULLAH, AND THE AFGHAN AND WEST GERMAN PERSONNEL RUNNING THE SPECIAL ANTI-NARCOTICS UNIT) TO FOLLOW THROUGH ON THE BAN IN OPIUM PRODUCTION IN THE DEVELOPED AREAS OF AFGHANISTAN. GOA OFFICIALS INDICATED THAT IT WOULD BE DONE. THE CODEL ALSO STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF IDENTIFYING SPECIFIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN BADA KHSHAN ONCE THE OVERALL PROPOSED U.N. DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE PROVINCE HAD BEEN APPROVED BY THE GOA. THE CODEL EXPRESSED ITS BELIEF THAT CONGRESS WOULD SUPPORT THE EFFORT TO FUND SUCH SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND THUS DEVELOP INCOME SUBSTITUTION PROGRAMS IN OPIUM GROWING AREAS. CHAIRMAN WOLFF, SPEAKING FROM HIS OWN BUSINESS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 KABUL 08473 161016Z

EXPERIENCE, TOLD THE AFGHANS TO BE SURE AND CONSIDER MARKETS WHEN THEY WERE STUDYING NEW PRODUCTS FOR INCOME SUBSTITUTION.

5. PRESIDENT DAOUD WELCOMED THE CODEL WOLFF INITIATIVE AND ITS ASSURANCES OF SUPPORT IN THE AMERICAN CONGRESS FOR ANTI-NARCOTIC PROGRAMS. THE PRESIDENT SAID HIS COUNTRY WAS PREPARED TO ACCEPT BILATERAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE U.S. IN THE ECONOMIC FIELD AND ALSO IN MATERIEL AND TRAINING IN THE POLICE ENFORCEMENT

AREA. HOWEVER, PRESIDENT DAOUD SAID THAT HE WAS SURE THE CODEL WOULD UNDERSTAND THAT THERE WERE CERTAIN AREAS IN INTERNAL POLICE ACTIVITIES IN WHICH BILATERAL FOREIGN ASSISTANCE WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO MAKE USE OF. IN THOSE AREAS, THE PRESIDENT SAID HE PREFERRED MULTI-LATERAL (READ UNFDAC) PROGRAMS.

6. PRESIDENT DAOUD, MR. NAIM, MINISTER QADIR AND MINISTER ABDULLAH ALL URGED INCREASED WESTERN SUPPORT TO TIGHTEN AFGHANISTAN'S FRONTIER WITH IRAN. MINISTER QADIR STRESSED TO THE CODEL THAT ENHANCED CONTROL WOULD ASSIST IN STOPPING ELICIT NARCOTICS SHIPMENTS AND ALSO OTHER TYPES OF SMUGGLING -- MEAT, FOR EXAMPLE, WHICH WERE DEPRIVING THE GOA OF INCOME.

7. PRESIDENT DAOUD AND MR. NAIM BOTH MADE A POINT OF TELLING THE CODEL HOW MUCH THEY WANTED TO COOPERATE IN THE NARCOTICS FIELD AND THAT U.S. ASSISTANCE WOULD BE WELCOME, BUT THEY ALSO WERE EMPHATIC IN SAYING THAT THIS RELATIONSHIP WAS TO BE A MUTUAL ONE AND THAT AFGHANISTAN WOULD NEVER ASSENT TO BEING ANYONE'S PUPPET.

8. PRESIDENT DAOUD EXPRESSED PARTICULAR INTEREST IN FINDING OUT RESULTS OF RESEARCH ON WHY PEOPLE TURN TO NARCOTICS. CODEL INDICATED TO THE PRESIDENT THAT THIS WAS A MATTER OF INTENSE STUDY IN THE UNITED STATES AND THAT THEY WOULD SEND MATERIALS TO THE PRESIDENT ON THIS ISSUE AS THEY BECOME AVAILABLE.

9. PRESIDENT DAOUD CONCLUDED HIS MEETING WITH THE CODEL BY SENDING WARM WISHES TO PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER AND THE NEW CONGRESS FOR SUCCESS IN THEIR ENDEAVORS BEGINNING JANUARY 20.

10. IN A MEETING WITH THE U.S. MISSION KABUL OFFICERS AND DEA REGIONAL PERSONNEL, CHAIRMAN WOLFF AND CONGRESSMAN SCHEUER URGED THAT THE U.S. MISSION USE THE FOUNDATIONS LAID FOR ANTI-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NARCOTICS WORK OVER THE PAST 36 MONTHS TO DEVELOP A "CRITICAL PATH" OF GOALS AND PERFORMANCE CRITERIA IN THE ANTI-NARCOTICS FIELD. THE CONGRESSMEN UNDERLINED THE URGENCY OF THE FEELING IN CONGRESS THAT REALISTIC, TOUGH PROPOSALS BE MADE TO DEAL WITH THE NARCOTICS PROBLEM.

11. CHAIRMAN WOLFF STRESSED THE NEED NOT TO BE BOUND BY IMAGINED DIFFICULTIES IN PROPOSING NEW PROGRAMS (U.S. MISSION OFFICERS POINTED OUT TO THE CODEL THAT GOA OFFICIALS HAD, IN THE PAST, BEEN LEARY OF BILATERAL ASSISTANCE IN THE POLICE AREA. DURING THIS CODEL VISIT GOA OFFICIALS SEEMED SOMEWHAT MORE RELAXED ON THIS SUBJECT AS EVIDENCED BY PRESIDENT DAOUD'S COMMENTS REPORTED IN PARA FIVE ABOVE.)

12. U.S. MISSION IN KABUL PLANS TO FOLLOW UP THIS TIMELY

CONGRESSIONAL VISIT AND WHAT SEEMS TO BE ENHANCED HIGH-LEVEL
GOA WILLINGNESS TO TAKE ACTION, TO DRAFT AND DESIGN A PROGRAM
FOR THE NEAR AND LONGER RANGE ANTI-NARCOTICS PROGRAMS, OUTLINING
STEPS THAT CAN BE TAKEN, ARTICULATING PROJECTS AND SETTING UP
PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR U.S. AND GOA AGENCIES.

13. DEA ADMINISTRATOR BENSINGER'S PRESENCE WITH THE CODEL WAS
OF SUBSTANTIAL ASSISTANCE IN DISCUSSIONS WITH GOA OFFICIALS AND
AMONG MEMBERS OF THE U.S. MISSION.
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